of them attaining a high degree of skill and reputation. Similarly, we find them active under more humble conditions in various English provincial centres. This was their introduction, in many cases, to engraving and to art in general (see above, p. 128).

Meanwhile, their interest in gem-purveying had continued. Just as in the Middle Ages (as early at least as the time of Charlemagne), Jewish jewellers made perilous voyages over land and sea to the East to bring back gems for the courts of Europe, so at a later date they went to India with the same object, this being the earliest settlement there of European Jews. Similarly, when the Brazilian diamonds came on the market in the seventeenth century, they were brought to Europe largely by Marrano agencies. There was therefore nothing novel, or unnatural, when Jews took such a large part in the development of the diamond industry in South Africa at the close of the nineteenth century; indeed, it was a new experience when they were subsequently ousted from their previous almost dominant position by the immensely superior financial genius of Cecil Rhodes.

§m

It is with the field of finance that Jewish economic achievement is usually associated. This conception, already widely held, was popularised by Sombart in Ms ponderous and, in many ways, impressive volume, on the Jews and Modern Capitalism. In this

he maintains with a wealth of learning that the Jews, by the circumstances of their history and of their intellectual bent, are particularly qualified to participate in modern capitalism, and are largely responsible for its evils. Indeed, according to him, all the predominant features which distinguish modern capitalism from mediaeval